

AO-10-84  
*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

*Office of  
Campaign & Political Finance*

*One Ashburton Place, Boston 02108*

*727-8352*

*Dennis J. Duffin*  
*Director*

AO-1984-10  
August 2, 1984

Theodore Aleixo, Chairman  
Committee on Insurance  
House of Representatives  
State House, Room 254  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Aleixo:

This letter represents my advisory opinion relative to the leasing of an automobile by your political committee, pursuant to G.L. c. 55, the campaign finance law.

In correspondence with this office, you have stated the following:

"The city of Taunton comprises 49.6 square miles and as such is the largest city and area in the State. Therefore, of necessity, I must drive my car a great deal in meeting with my constituents and dealing with the problems of the area. Invariably, a typical week also includes several fraternal club meetings, meetings with local elected officials and participation in local ethnic organizations and their functions.

These meetings provide me with an avenue to gain valuable insight as to what is transpiring in my district and provide me with important exposure to enhance my status as a public figure."

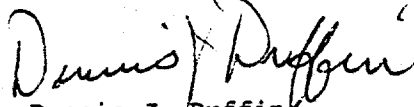
In rendering this opinion I have relied upon the representations made in your letters to this office. G.L. c. 55, Section 6 provides that political committees such as yours "may receive, pay and expend money or other things of value for the enhancement of the political future of the candidate or the principle, for which the committee was organized so long as such expenditure is not primarily for the candidate's or any other person's personal use."

In my opinion, the use of a vehicle for the reasons described above would be for the purpose of the enhancement of your political future. Your political committee, may therefore, pay for that portion of the lease for a vehicle which will be used for these political purposes. You have stated, however, that you anticipate that the vehicle's use for personal activities will be approximately 25%. Therefore, at

Theodore Aleixo  
August 2, 1984  
Page 2

no time may your political committee pay for more than 75% of the leasing of the vehicle. Because of the strict prohibition against political committee expenditures for personal use, I caution you that if at any time the personal use of the vehicle is more than 25% the above formulation must be adjusted so that the committee is expending funds solely for the political use of the vehicle.

Very truly yours,

  
Dennis J. Duffin  
Director

DJD/rep